

To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Keansburg School District
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 16, 2008

The Keansburg School District hereby lends its strong support to the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the schools and libraries ("E-rate") program.

Increasing and improving communications between and among educators, students, and parents can play an essential role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. Telephone broadcast messaging offers our school district the advantage of reaching every family to communicate important school news, events, and emergencies. In past, we used less efficient means to reach out to students and parents, such as individual home phone calls for attendance and phone tree messages. These means proved to be cumbersome and utilized the time of educators and staff members which could have been put to better use. Time that is given back to our students is invaluable in their educational careers, and our telephone broadcast messaging system has afforded us just that.

Significant benefits of this service include the emergency weather alerts that can reach all families in our school community within minutes and the outreach to parents of students who are absent on any given day, a service that is important in our High School.

School districts, such as Keansburg, need the support of the E-Rate program to deliver technology resources to fuel our educational goals and parent/community initiatives. Telephone broadcast messaging is a great example of technology that reaches our various communities to effectively, efficiently, and pro-actively establish communications and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Young
Keansburg School District
Supervisor of Special Projects and Information Services